

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0009] beginning on page 4, line 24, as follows:

--[0009] According to the present invention, the protrusions are provided in the groove. Since the protrusions are formed at intervals, and are separated from the lands, the capacity of the groove can be ensured. Therefore, when the pneumatic tire runs on the snowy road, the snow on the road surface enters the grooves, and the pneumatic tire enables to push a lot of snow aside, to ensure snow traction performance. Furthermore, the protrusion includes the sloped portion having the ~~slope~~^{slope} of which angle with the groove bottom is in a range from 3 to 60°. Therefore, even if a stone is trapped within the groove, the stone moves also in the tire radial direction along the slope by rolling of the pneumatic tire, without catching on the protrusion when moving along within the groove. Consequently, the stone trapped within the groove is ejected from the groove. Thereby minimizing the occurrence of stone drilling while the snow traction performance is ensured.--